

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite web adapted for use as a component in a disposable absorbent article, said composite web comprising a first fibrous layer and a second layer, said first and second layers each comprising a body-facing side and a garment-facing side and being disposed in a face to face relationship to form a laminate, said first fibrous layer comprising a fibrous web of randomly oriented fibers with respect to a MD-CD plane, and comprising a plurality of discrete regions of fiber reorientation at least on said body-facing side, and comprising a plurality of fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side of said second layer, and wherein each said discrete region has a distinct linear orientation in said MD-CD plane and a longitudinal axis in said MD-CD plane, wherein said composite web is disposed between a topsheet and a backsheet.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Original) The composite web of Claim 1, wherein said second layer is a fibrous layer.
4. (Original) The composite web of Claim 1 wherein said second layer is a polymer film layer.
5. (Original) The composite web of Claim 4, wherein said polymer film layer is apertured.
6. (Original) The composite web of Claim 3, wherein the first fibrous layer or the second fibrous layer are nonwoven webs comprising fibers that differ in one or more properties selected from the group consisting of: basis weight, caliper, fiber type, fiber size, fiber surface energy, and hydrophobicity.

7. (Original) The composite web of Claim 6, wherein the first fibrous layer or the second fibrous layer is chosen from the group consisting of, an airlaid nonwoven web, a spunbond nonwoven web, a meltblown nonwoven web, and a carded nonwoven web.
8. (Original) The composite web of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of discrete regions is uniformly distributed on said composite web.
9. (Original) The composite web of Claim 6, wherein said fibers of either said first or second layer comprise polymers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.
10. (Original) The composite web of Claim 6, wherein said fibers of either said first or second layer comprise bicomponent fibers.
11. (Original) The composite web of Claim 6, wherein said fibers of either said first or second layer comprise non-round fibers.
12. (Currently Amended) The composite web of Claim 1, wherein fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side extend through said second ~~precursor web~~ layer.
13. (Currently Amended) The composite web of Claim 1, wherein fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side do not extend through said second ~~precursor web layer~~ layer.
14. (Currently Amended) A topsheet for a disposable absorbent article, the topsheet comprising a first fibrous layer and a second layer, said first layer relatively hydrophobic compared to said second layer, said first and second layers each comprising a body-facing side and a garment-facing side and being disposed in a face to face relationship to form a laminate, said first fibrous layer comprising a fibrous web of randomly oriented fibers with respect to a MD-CD plane, and comprising a plurality of discrete regions of fiber reorientation at least on said body-facing side, and comprising a plurality of fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side of said second layer, and wherein each said

discrete region has a distinct linear orientation and a longitudinal axis in said MD-CD plane, said first fibrous layer having an average fiber diameter and said discrete regions having an average fiber diameter, wherein said average fiber diameter of said discrete regions is less than said average fiber diameter of said first fibrous layer.

15. (Currently Amended) An absorbent core for a disposable absorbent article, the absorbent core comprising a first fibrous layer and a second layer, said first and second layers each comprising a body-facing side and a garment-facing side and being disposed in a face to face relationship to form a laminate, said first fibrous layer comprising a fibrous web of randomly oriented fibers with respect to a MD-CD plane, and comprising a plurality of discrete regions of fiber reorientation at least on said body-facing side, and comprising a plurality of fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side of said second layer, and wherein each said discrete region has a distinct linear orientation in said MD-CD plane and a longitudinal axis in said MD-CD plane, wherein said absorbent core is disposed between a topsheet and a backsheet.

16. (New) The topsheet of Claim 14, wherein said second layer is a fibrous layer.

17. (New) The topsheet of Claim 14, wherein said second layer is a polymer film.

18. (New) The topsheet of Claim 17, wherein said polymer film is apertured.

19. (New) The topsheet of Claim 14 wherein said fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said MD-CD plane and extending toward said garment-facing side of said second layer do not extend through said second layer.

20. (New) The absorbent core of Claim 15, wherein said second layer is a fibrous layer.

21. (New) The absorbent core of Claim 15, wherein said first fibrous layer has an average fiber diameter and said discrete regions have an average fiber diameter, wherein said average fiber diameter of said discrete regions is less than said average fiber diameter of said first fibrous layer.